

EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACTS IN DANIELLE STEEL'S *A PERFECT LIFE*

Mailisa Al Mirrah, Muhammad Ali Pawiro, Ely Ezir

Faculty of Literature, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia

E-mail: mailisaalmirrah2598@gmail.com

Received: 2024-07-22

Accepted: 2024-11-05

Published: 2024-11-30

Abstract

This study explores the use of expressive speech acts in Danielle Steel's novel *A Perfect Life*, aiming to uncover how these acts contribute to character development and narrative progression. The primary objective is to analyze the prevalence and functions of expressive speech acts—such as expressions of pleasure, pain, joy, sorrow, like, dislike, and apology—within the text. The theoretical framework is grounded in speech act theory, particularly focusing on expressive speech acts as defined by J. L. Austin and further developed by John Searle. This research employs a qualitative approach to dissect and categorize the expressive language used by the novel's main characters. The analysis reveals a notable dominance of dislike and apology among the expressive speech acts, with a lesser focus on pain, joy, and pleasure. Dislike emerges as the most frequently utilized act, reflecting significant emotional and narrative weight in the characters' interactions. The study's findings suggest that expressive speech acts are crucial in conveying emotional depth and relational dynamics within the novel. The implications of this research highlight the role of expressive speech acts in enhancing narrative engagement and character development. Understanding these dynamics offers valuable insights for literary analysis and can inform future studies on character expression in fiction. The study anticipates that further research could explore the comparative application of expressive speech acts across different genres and authors, expanding the understanding of emotional expression in literature.

Keywords: *expressive influence; speech acts; types of expressive*

1. Introduction

Communication is an essential aspect of human interaction within society. It encompasses both verbal and non-verbal forms, allowing individuals to understand each other. One of the most common methods of communication is through speech, which can occur either directly or indirectly. In today's digital age, indirect communication via electronic devices has become dominant, significantly shaping the way people interact with one another. This mode of communication facilitates connections between individuals and groups, enabling them to fulfill their needs and interests efficiently.

However, communication is governed by societal norms and rules, and any deviation from these norms can result in various consequences. Miscommunication or

improper speech acts may lead to negative outcomes, while positive communication can motivate and provide clarity to the listener. As Searle (1969) aptly stated, "all linguistic communication involves linguistic action" (p. 42). This indicates that every speech act inherently carries the potential to affect those who hear it, emphasizing the influential role of language in shaping interpersonal dynamics.

Pragmatics, as Levinson (1983) defines it, is "the study of relations between language and context that are basic to an account of language understanding" (p. 21). This highlights that language comprehension is inherently tied to context, and human beings constantly interpret the language they encounter based on the surrounding circumstances. When individuals successfully convey and interpret messages, language serves as a fundamental tool for interaction.

Speech acts, as first explored by Austin (1962), offer a theoretical framework for understanding how utterances can influence human emotions and decisions. Austin's theory emphasizes that "utterances are not just words but actions, particularly in terms of their intention, purpose, or effect." Consequently, when a speaker makes an utterance, they often aim to elicit a response or action from the listener to achieve a specific objective (Austin, 1962). Furthermore, speech acts involve not only the sentences themselves but also the context in which they are spoken, suggesting that meaning arises from the interaction between language, activity, and situational context (Austin, 1962).

Wahyuningtyas (2021) reinforces this notion, asserting that "all sentences that appear in a conversation are included in speech acts." This comprehensive understanding of speech acts is crucial when analyzing conversations, as it requires considering both the propositional content and the broader situation in which the speech occurs.

One particular form of speech act, the expressive speech act, plays a critical role in communication by conveying the speaker's emotions and attitudes toward events. Ilie and Norrick (2018) explain that "expressive speech acts serve to communicate the speaker's feelings about the situation or events mentioned in the utterance's propositional content" (p. 120). These speech acts provide insight into the emotional states of the characters in fictional narratives, as they reflect their internal feelings and responses to their circumstances.

In Danielle Steel's novel *A Perfect Life*, the emotional journeys of the characters are intricately expressed through their speech. The analysis of expressive speech acts in the novel reveals how the words spoken by the three main characters carry multiple meanings and deep emotional resonance. For instance, the protagonist Blaise's evolving feelings of love for Simon, Simon's reactions to Blaise's life decisions, and Salima's hope that Simon will become the father figure she has longed for, all exemplify how expressive speech acts shape the narrative.

This research aims to investigate the following questions:

1. What expressive speech acts are displayed in the novel *A Perfect Life* by Danielle Steel?
2. How do expressive speech acts impact the events and characters in the novel *A Perfect Life* by Danielle Steel?

Through this analysis, the researchers seek to provide a detailed account of the types of expressive speech acts used in the novel and their significance in influencing the actions and emotional responses of the characters. The study will contribute to a

deeper understanding of how speech acts function in literary texts to evoke and convey complex human emotions.

2. Literature Review

The literature review in this research aims to provide a theoretical foundation for analyzing expressive speech acts in Danielle Steel's *A Perfect Life*. The purpose of the review is to consolidate existing knowledge about speech act theory, particularly focusing on expressive speech acts, while also identifying areas that need further investigation within the context of the novel. This section will group relevant data to give an overview of key concepts, theories, and previous research on speech acts in literature, highlighting their significance for understanding character interactions and emotional expressions.

Speech act theory, first developed by J. L. Austin (1962) and further expanded by John Searle (1969), serves as the primary theoretical framework for this research. Austin (1962) introduced the idea that utterances are not merely statements or questions but actions performed by speakers. Searle (1969) refined this theory by categorizing speech acts into various types, including assertives, directives, commissives, declaratives, and expressives. Expressive speech acts, which are central to this study, are those in which the speaker expresses an emotional state or attitude towards a particular situation. According to Ilie and Norrick (2018), expressive speech acts are essential for understanding the psychological and emotional dimensions of communication, as they reveal the speaker's feelings and reactions to events.

In literary studies, speech act theory has been widely applied to analyze the language of fictional characters, particularly how their words reflect their inner emotions and influence their interactions with others. Expressive speech acts are particularly relevant in literature, where characters' utterances often serve as a window into their motivations, conflicts, and personal growth. As noted by Leech (1983), the meaning of speech in literature is highly context-dependent, and a thorough analysis requires not only examining the literal content of the dialogue but also understanding the social and emotional context in which the speech occurs.

The source of data for this research is Danielle Steel's novel *A Perfect Life* (2014), which provides rich material for studying expressive speech acts. The novel centers around three main characters—Blaise, Salima, and Simon—each of whom navigates complex emotional landscapes. Their dialogues reflect their internal struggles, desires, and responses to the situations they face, making the novel an ideal text for exploring how expressive speech acts function in literature.

To gather data, the researcher meticulously read and analyzed the novel, recording all the utterances spoken by the three main characters. These utterances were then categorized into expressive actions, with a focus on how each character's speech reflects their emotional state. The analysis also involved grouping the utterances according to the specific emotions they convey, such as love, fear, sadness, hope, and frustration. This method of categorization aligns with Searle's (1969) classification of expressive speech acts, which emphasizes that such acts are expressions of psychological states.

For example, Blaise's expressions of uncertainty about her relationship with Simon and Salima's longing for a father figure are both explored through their respective speech acts. The emotional depth conveyed through their utterances provides insight into their character development and the dynamics between them. This research

thus contributes to the broader understanding of how expressive speech acts in literature not only communicate emotions but also shape the narrative and influence the reader's interpretation of the characters' relationships and personal journeys.

Previous studies have also highlighted the importance of speech acts in understanding character interaction. According to Simpson (1993), speech acts in fiction often serve as a tool for character development, helping readers grasp the motivations behind a character's actions. In *A Perfect Life*, the expressive speech acts of Blaise, Salima, and Simon are central to understanding how they navigate their individual and shared experiences. Their words often convey more than the surface meaning, allowing the reader to engage with the deeper emotional undercurrents of the narrative.

This literature review establishes the theoretical framework for analyzing expressive speech acts within the novel and underscores the importance of speech acts in literary analysis. By applying speech act theory to *A Perfect Life*, this research seeks to explore how the expressive utterances of the main characters contribute to their emotional expression, character development, and the overall impact of the novel. The analysis of these expressive speech acts provides new insights into how language functions in literature, particularly in conveying complex emotional states and shaping narrative outcomes.

3. Research Method

The research method employed in this study is qualitative and descriptive in nature. According to Creswell (2014), "The historical origin of qualitative research comes from anthropology, sociology, the humanities, and evaluation" (p. 42). Qualitative research is particularly suited for exploring complex human behaviors, utterances, and interactions, which are central to the focus of this study. In this case, the research subjects are the expressive speech acts of the main characters in Danielle Steel's *A Perfect Life*. The results are analyzed and presented in the form of narrative descriptions, allowing for a detailed interpretation of the emotions and intentions conveyed through the characters' speech.

This study applies a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze the main data, which consists of the utterances spoken by the three primary characters—Blaise, Salima, and Simon. The qualitative method is chosen because it provides a means to deeply explore the meanings behind their words, focusing on their expressive speech acts. As Creswell (2014) emphasizes, qualitative research seeks to understand the world from the participants' perspectives, and in this case, the characters' perspectives are crucial for understanding their emotional expressions through speech.

The theoretical foundation for this analysis is grounded in speech act theory, particularly the work of J.L. Austin (1962) and John Searle (1969), who were pioneers in the study of how language functions as a form of action. Austin's theory of speech acts emphasizes that when people speak, they are performing actions, not just conveying information. Searle further developed this theory by categorizing different types of speech acts, including expressive acts, which are the focus of this research. Expressive speech acts, as outlined by these theorists, are those that convey the speaker's emotional state or attitude towards a particular situation.

The object of this research is the statements made by the three main characters in the novel, with a particular focus on how their speech reflects their emotional experiences. These utterances are analyzed as expressive speech acts, which are defined as speech acts that express psychological states, such as joy, sadness, anger, or hope.

The researcher chose Blaise, Salima, and Simon as the focal characters because they play pivotal roles in the narrative, and their expressive speech acts drive much of the emotional and interpersonal dynamics of the story. Their words not only reveal their feelings but also influence the actions and decisions of those around them, making them central to the novel's plot.

In addition to the primary data drawn from the novel, this study also incorporates secondary data from a variety of sources. These include electronic books, academic journals, news articles, and websites that provide supporting information on speech act theory and its application in literature. This secondary data helps to contextualize the analysis and ensures that the findings are grounded in established theoretical frameworks.

The research method follows a structured process that consists of several steps. These steps occur both sequentially and simultaneously, ensuring a comprehensive analysis of the data. The steps include:

1. **Data Reduction:** This involves selecting, focusing, simplifying, and organizing the large volume of data from the novel. The researcher groups the utterances of the characters according to the emotions they express, thus reducing the data to manageable themes for analysis.
2. **Data Presentation:** Once the data has been categorized, it is presented in a coherent and structured manner. The expressive speech acts are grouped according to the emotional states they represent, such as love, anger, or sadness. This allows for a clear visual and narrative representation of the data.
3. **Drawing Conclusions:** After analyzing the data, the researcher draws conclusions about the nature of the expressive speech acts in the novel and their impact on the characters' relationships and actions. These conclusions are based on the patterns observed in the data and are supported by the theoretical framework of speech act theory.
4. **Verification:** The final step involves verifying the findings to ensure their accuracy and reliability. This includes cross-referencing the analysis with secondary data and ensuring that the interpretations are consistent with established theories in the field.

By following these steps, the research method ensures that the analysis is thorough, systematic, and grounded in both primary data (the novel) and secondary sources. This approach allows the researchers to explore the nuances of expressive speech acts and their role in shaping the emotional and relational dynamics of the characters in *A Perfect Life*.

4. Discussion

Human communication, especially speech, holds significant psychological implications for both speakers and listeners. The meanings embedded in speech acts can manifest in various ways, influencing interactions positively or negatively. In Danielle Steel's *A Perfect Life*, the utterances of the main characters—Blaise, Salima, and Simon—illustrate how speech acts reflect the pressures, conflicts, and emotional complexities of human life. These statements serve as expressions of their struggles and achievements, mirroring the broader human experience. The characters' speech reveals their navigation through a complex life journey, where their words bear significant psychological weight and impact their relationships.

In *A Perfect Life*, the characters' utterances are not mere surface-level expressions but part of a deeper process of understanding what constitutes a "perfect life." The challenges and emotional turmoil depicted in the novel allow characters to develop a profound appreciation for their relationships. Their speech acts, carrying consequences and influencing decisions, shape their understanding of life and contribute to their psychological and emotional development.

Language is a vital tool for humans in navigating their social world. As Yule (2010) highlights, "Humans are given the ability to communicate. Effective communication using language is an essential life skill as social beings need to interact with each other to fulfill their needs. Communication involves not only recognizing the meaning of words but also understanding the speaker's intent." This insight is crucial for interpreting the layered meanings of speech acts in the novel. The characters' interactions reflect their emotional and psychological states, significantly affecting themselves and others.

Speech acts, as theorized by John Searle and J.L. Austin, are central to understanding the novel's communicative functions. Speech acts transcend literal meanings to convey intentions, emotions, and social actions. Searle categorizes speech acts into five types: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Each type serves a specific function, reflecting the speaker's intention and influencing the listener's response. In *A Perfect Life*, expressive speech acts—those conveying emotions—are particularly significant in shaping the narrative and revealing the psychological impact of interactions.

Representative speech acts involve stating facts, offering opinions, or making predictions based on observations. For instance, Blaise's statements about her daughter's condition and career reflect her commitment to presenting factual information while revealing deeper emotional truths.

Directive speech acts aim to influence the listener's actions through requests, commands, or suggestions. Blaise and Simon use directives to guide and protect others, highlighting power dynamics and emotional tensions.

Commissive speech acts involve commitments to future actions, such as promises or threats. Blaise's commitments to support Salima and Simon's promises to care for her underscore their emotional investment and responsibility, advancing the plot and revealing inner conflicts.

Expressive speech acts reveal the speaker's emotional state, including feelings of pleasure, pain, joy, or sorrow. Blaise's frustration, Salima's joy, and Simon's concern are examples of how language reveals their psychological states and impacts those around them.

Declarative speech acts alter reality through the speaker's authority or social role. Though less prominent, they mark significant shifts in the characters' lives, such as Blaise's career decisions or Salima's assertions of independence.

Overall, the speech acts in *A Perfect Life* carry profound psychological and social implications. These utterances are not merely verbal expressions but actions that shape relationships, decisions, and emotional well-being. Analyzing these speech acts through pragmatics, particularly Searle's classifications, reveals how language helps navigate the complexities of human life. Whether representative, directive, commissive, expressive, or declarative, the speech acts offer insight into the characters' inner worlds and the broader themes of emotional resilience, personal growth, and the pursuit of a "perfect life."

4.1 Expressive Speech Acts

This analysis delves into the expressive speech act and its psychological impact on both the speaker and listener, focusing on how feelings and attitudes are communicated. The expressive speech act, as defined by Searle (1979), encompasses expressions of emotions such as pleasure, apology, and congratulation, reflecting the speaker's psychological state. This aspect of speech is intrinsic to daily human communication, forming an essential part of how individuals relate to one another.

According to Yule (1996), expressive speech acts not only convey emotions but also align language with the speaker's inner emotional world, creating a direct connection between feelings and linguistic expression. Whether triggered by the speaker's own actions or the listener's, these acts reveal personal experiences and responses. The speaker makes their words fit the emotional reality they are experiencing, offering a window into their psychological state.

Pleasure as an Expressive Speech Act

Pleasure, one of the core emotions conveyed through expressive speech acts, is particularly significant in human communication. Researchers like Selsibila (2015) suggest that pleasure manifests in speech acts through expressions of joy, satisfaction, and happiness. In literary works, such as novels, these expressions often reveal much about the character's psychological state, offering readers insights into moments of comfort or fulfillment. The ability to articulate pleasure reflects the basic human need for connection, comfort, and emotional validation.

Psychologically, as explained by Lorenzo Moccia and Marianna Mazza (2018), pleasure is not merely a simple emotion but a complex psychological phenomenon. It involves positive reactions to stimuli that bring satisfaction and happiness. For example, being in a comfortable environment or being around people who make one feel valued and needed can evoke feelings of pleasure. From a gender perspective, as argued by Abdullah Husain, Ika Nurhayani, and Hamamah Hamamah (2020), this emotion ties into traditional roles—where women may feel protected and loved, aligning with cultural norms about care and affection.

Furthermore, Sigmund Freud (1939) explores the multifaceted nature of pleasure, categorizing it into several types such as physio-pleasure, psycho-pleasure, socio-pleasure, and ideo-pleasure. These categories highlight the diversity of pleasure as an experience: it can arise from physical sensations, psychological contentment, social interaction, or the fulfillment of ideologies or values. This complexity underlines the deeper, layered nature of pleasure in human life, moving beyond surface-level happiness to include emotional satisfaction on various levels.

The Psychological Complexity of Pleasure

Expressive speech acts, particularly those communicating pleasure, involve more than just the articulation of positive feelings. As Freud's hedonic psychology suggests, pleasure is an intricate phenomenon encompassing both conscious and subconscious layers. When individuals express pleasure through speech, they are often revealing not only their current emotional state but also the deeper psychological forces driving their desires and motivations.

In daily communication and literature, these speech acts often serve as a reflection of self-identity. Expressing pleasure, for example, is not merely about stating happiness but also about asserting one's needs, desires, and sense of fulfillment. The act

of expressing positive emotions can serve as a form of emotional validation, reinforcing the speaker's sense of worth and well-being.

This deeper understanding of pleasure as an expressive speech act enriches the analysis of communication, highlighting how language serves as a vehicle for expressing and processing complex emotions. Expressive speech acts, in this sense, do more than just describe a psychological state—they help individuals navigate and understand their inner emotional landscapes.

“I missed you too much. I had to come up today,” Blaise said, as Salima threw herself into her mother’s arms and nearly knocked her down, and then spun her around		
S-setting and Scene	Setting	Springfield – Darth mount A Perfect Life - Chapter 3. 2014
P-Participant	Speaker Listener	Blaise - Salima
E-Ends	Purpose	Blaise came to meet Salima to share their longings and releasetheir longings
A-Act	Content	Blaise really missed her daughter
K-Key		She spoke softly
I-Instrument		Oral speaking
N-Norm	Interaction	Blaise spoke to her daughter Salima
G-Genre		Verbal communication

The meaning:

Miss (v) means to fail to hit, reach, or contact (Webster’s dictionary)

The influence:

Blaise’s reunion with her daughter Salima, after a long period of separation, captures the deep emotional **pleasure** experienced during moments of familial connection and affection. Their reunion exemplifies the positive emotions that arise from **attachment** and the fulfillment of a longed-for reunion, triggering feelings of **joy**, **happiness**, and **contentment** in both Blaise and Salima.

Emotional Pleasure and Familial Bonding

When Blaise finally reunites with Salima, her daughter's joy is evident in her affectionate **hug** and eager **storytelling**. The **pleasure** Salima feels stems from the emotional fulfillment of reconnecting with her mother after being apart, likely amplifying her feelings of **happiness** and **comfort**. Reuniting with loved ones after long separations can elicit powerful positive emotions, as it satisfies the innate human need for **attachment** and **social bonding** (Bowlby, 1969). This type of emotional pleasure is often associated with feelings of **relief** and **joy**, as it reaffirms the deep bond between mother and daughter.

Salima’s **happy reaction** to her mother’s arrival underscores the significant impact that physical presence and emotional closeness have on **emotional well-being**. Research on **attachment theory** suggests that individuals derive great emotional satisfaction from being close to those with whom they share strong emotional bonds (Ainsworth & Bowlby, 1991). The hug Salima gives her mother signifies not only **affection** but also the **pleasure** of having her emotional needs met through closeness and love.

Expression of Pleasure Through Affection

Salima's affectionate **hug** is a physical manifestation of the **pleasure** she feels. Physical affection, such as hugging, is a well-known means of expressing positive emotions, and it releases **oxytocin**, a hormone that fosters feelings of happiness, trust, and connection (Zak, 2011). The pleasure Salima experiences is both emotional and physiological, as the act of hugging her mother reinforces her feelings of joy and affection. This interaction highlights how **expressive acts of love** can deepen emotional connections and enhance feelings of **well-being**.

In addition to the physical display of affection, Salima's **eager storytelling** symbolizes her emotional joy. When individuals feel **happy** and **content**, they often feel more inclined to share their experiences and emotions with others, a behavior that strengthens social bonds. **Narrative sharing**, in this case, serves as a way for Salima to express her **pleasure** and **gratitude** for her mother's presence, solidifying their emotional connection through conversation and storytelling (Fivush, 2004).

The Role of Anticipation in Enhancing Pleasure

Salima's **happiness** is not just the result of the immediate reunion but also reflects the **anticipation** of her mother's arrival. Research in psychology has shown that **anticipation of a positive event** can intensify the experience of pleasure, as individuals look forward to the fulfillment of their desires (Loewenstein, 1987). In Salima's case, the time spent apart from her mother likely heightened her **anticipation** of the reunion, making the actual moment of reconnection even more emotionally gratifying. This psychological dynamic underscores the way **anticipation** can deepen the emotional pleasure derived from reunions and shared experiences.

Blaise, too, likely feels **pleasure** in this reunion, as she has missed her daughter and eagerly looked forward to spending time with her. The mutual exchange of affection and joy further reinforces the **positive emotional cycle** between them. This shared emotional experience of **pleasure** creates a strong bond of **love** and **support**, essential components of familial relationships.

The Importance of Togetherness and Shared Joy

The time Blaise and Salima spend together during their vacation embodies the idea that **shared experiences** are often central to the experience of pleasure. **Quality time** with loved ones not only strengthens emotional bonds but also enhances overall **life satisfaction** and **happiness**. Blaise's intention to spend time with her daughter highlights the importance of prioritizing **togetherness** in building emotional fulfillment. For Salima, her mother's presence brings a sense of **security** and **comfort**, which further enhances her emotional pleasure. This sense of **emotional fulfillment** is a critical component of human happiness and contributes to a deeper **sense of well-being**. The **positive emotions** that arise from such reunions have long-lasting effects, reinforcing **positive mental health** and **emotional resilience** (Lyubomirsky, 2008).

The reunion between Blaise and Salima exemplifies the profound emotional **pleasure** that arises from **family bonds**, **physical affection**, and **shared experiences**. Salima's happiness at her mother's arrival is expressed through her affectionate hug and joyful storytelling, highlighting the deep emotional satisfaction that comes from **reconnecting** with loved ones. The anticipation leading up to the reunion, combined with the physical and emotional closeness they share, reinforces the power of **social bonds** in promoting **happiness** and **well-being**. This narrative illustrates how **pleasure**,

in the context of familial relationships, is not only about the immediate experience but also about the emotional fulfillment that comes from deep **connections** and **shared joy**.

Pain

This analysis focuses on the psychological and emotional dimensions of pain, exploring how it manifests beyond the physical sensations typically associated with injury or discomfort. While pain is often described in physical terms, such as prickling, stinging, or burning, it also encompasses a complex emotional experience, deeply intertwined with psychological and biological factors. Pain signals travel through nerve fibers to the brain, where they are interpreted, but the brain's processing of pain is influenced by emotional and psychological states.

The Multidimensional Nature of Pain

According to Mersky and Bogduk (1994), pain is not only a sensory experience but also an emotional one, which can be triggered by both actual and potential damage. They define pain as "an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential damage or described in terms of such damage." This definition highlights the emotional layer of pain, which can lead to feelings of **hopelessness, anger, sadness, and anxiety**, particularly for those who suffer from chronic pain. These emotions interact with the physical sensation of pain, making it a more complex phenomenon than a simple bodily reaction.

John Paul Nafe's theory (1970), though rooted in earlier studies from 1929, presents the idea that pain is processed through specific patterns of signals sent to the brain. While this explanation of pain has since been revised with the discovery of unique receptors for each type of sensation, it underscores the role the brain plays in interpreting and giving meaning to pain. The brain does not merely register pain as a physical stimulus but decodes it through emotional and psychological filters.

Psychological Responses to Pain

Pain, when viewed through a psychological lens, is closely connected to emotions like **anxiety, fear, anger, guilt, frustration, and depression**. These emotions are not just reactions to the sensation of pain; they shape how pain is experienced and processed by the individual. For example, **fear and anxiety** can intensify the sensation of pain, while **anger and frustration** may arise when individuals feel powerless over their pain. **Guilt** can also be a common emotional response, especially when someone feels responsible for their condition or when their pain impacts others.

The **neural connections** between emotions and pain are powerful, with emotions often driving behavior that either alleviates or worsens the pain. For instance, chronic pain sufferers may feel overwhelmed by their emotional responses, leading to a cycle where their emotional state amplifies the sensation of pain, which in turn fuels further emotional distress.

Emotional Complexity in the Experience of Pain

While pain is typically understood as a physical response to injury or damage, it is also deeply embedded in the emotional and psychological fabric of human experience. Chronic pain, in particular, highlights the complex relationship between physical sensations and emotions. **Feelings of sadness or depression** may accompany persistent pain, as individuals struggle to cope with the ongoing discomfort and the

impact it has on their quality of life. **Hopelessness** can set in when pain becomes a constant, inescapable part of existence, influencing not only the way individuals feel about their bodies but also their emotional and mental health.

This emotional aspect of pain, as explored by Nafe and other researchers, suggests that pain is not merely a sensory signal but an integrated experience shaped by **emotional states and cognitive processes**. Understanding this connection can lead to better pain management strategies, as addressing the emotional drivers of pain may be just as important as treating the physical causes.

In sum, pain is a complex experience that encompasses both **physical** and **psychological** dimensions. The emotional responses to pain, such as fear, frustration, and sadness, play a crucial role in shaping how individuals perceive and cope with pain. By acknowledging the **emotional** and **psychological** aspects of pain, we can gain a deeper understanding of its impact on human well-being, offering insights into more holistic approaches to pain management. Pain is more than a mere signal of physical damage; it is an experience that engages both the body and the mind, reflecting the intricate relationship between sensation and emotion.

“Baby, she’ll be all right,” Blaise said in a soothing tone, but Salima only cried harder. “It’s probably just a really bad flu, and they don’t want you to catch it.”		
S-Setting and Scene	Setting	New York - Springfield – Darth mount A Perfect Life - Chapter 4. 2014
P-Participant	Speaker Listener	Blaise - Salima
E-Ends	Purpose	Blaise tries to explain to Salima about Abby's situation
A-Act	Content	Blaise tries to tell Salima that Abby's illness is nothing to worry about
K-Key		She spoke sadly
I-Instrument		Oral speaking
N-Norm	Interaction	Blaise spoke to her daughter Salima
G-Genre		Verbal communication

The meaning:

Be alright (v) means people stay strong and keep pushing we'll be alright (Webster’s dictionary)

The influence:

Blaise’s efforts to comfort Salima during her emotional distress over Abby's illness demonstrate the profound psychological effects of **empathy** and **emotional support** during times of pain. While Salima is experiencing emotional pain due to worry and sadness, Blaise's response highlights the human need for **emotional connection** when dealing with distressing circumstances.

Emotional Pain and Psychological Support

Emotional pain, like the sadness and worry Salima feels, can often be as intense as physical pain. Psychological research shows that emotional suffering triggers similar areas of the brain as physical pain, emphasizing how deeply it can impact one’s well-being (Eisenberger & Lieberman, 2004). When Blaise hears Salima’s **sad voice** over the phone, it becomes clear that her emotional pain is significant. The sadness in her voice

is an auditory cue that communicates her emotional state, prompting Blaise to respond with care.

Blaise's effort to **reassure** Salima shows the importance of **social support** in alleviating emotional pain. Research on emotional regulation suggests that **empathetic listening** and providing reassurance can significantly reduce anxiety and sadness (Cutrona & Russell, 1990). By acknowledging Salima's pain and offering comfort, Blaise is attempting to ease her emotional burden, reminding her not to dwell too deeply in sadness and worry.

The Impact of Emotional Communication

The exchange between Blaise and Salima also underscores the impact of **emotional communication**. When Salima expresses her **sadness and worry** through her voice, she is, in essence, sharing her emotional pain with Blaise, seeking **comfort and validation**. Blaise's response reflects the role of close relationships in managing emotional distress. His ability to recognize the emotional weight in her voice and attempt to **alleviate** it speaks to the importance of **non-verbal cues** in emotional communication.

Furthermore, this interaction highlights the role of **supportive dialogue** in coping with emotional pain. Blaise's reassurance is not only about trying to calm Salima's worries but also about providing her with a sense of security and emotional stability. **Reassuring language**, in this context, functions as a form of **emotional balm**, helping to soothe Salima's psychological distress.

Emotional Resilience and the Role of Reassurance

While Salima is in a vulnerable emotional state, Blaise's effort to remind her not to **worry too much** reflects the process of building **emotional resilience**. Emotional resilience refers to the ability to adapt to stressful situations and recover from negative emotional experiences. In offering reassurance, Blaise is helping Salima to maintain a more **balanced emotional state**, allowing her to manage her sadness without being overwhelmed by it.

By encouraging Salima not to dwell too much on Abby's illness, Blaise is helping her to **regulate her emotional response**, a key factor in resilience. Emotional regulation strategies, like **cognitive reframing** and **positive reassurances**, can reduce the intensity of negative emotions such as sadness and worry (Gross, 1998). In this case, Blaise is encouraging Salima to focus on **hope** and **positivity**, rather than becoming consumed by her sadness, a critical step in fostering emotional recovery.

Blaise's attempt to comfort Salima during her emotional pain illustrates the profound influence of **emotional support** in dealing with distress. Salima's sadness, conveyed through her voice, highlights the real and tangible nature of **emotional pain**. Blaise's reassurance, on the other hand, demonstrates how **empathetic listening** and **positive reassurance** can alleviate emotional distress, helping to build emotional resilience. This interaction underscores the importance of emotional communication in relationships, where offering comfort and **support** can significantly ease the burden of psychological pain.

Like

The concept of "like" is a fundamental emotional response, expressing enjoyment, approval, or agreement towards something or someone. It is a feeling that

drives individuals to desire or seek out particular experiences or objects. As an expressive speech act, "like" conveys a psychological state of **enjoyment** or **favorability**. It reflects a personal preference or inclination, often motivated by subconscious processes.

Psychological Basis of "Like"

Susie Neilson (2018) explores the underlying mechanisms of attraction and preference, suggesting that human perception and emotional responses extend beyond conscious awareness. She states that "when it comes to being stared at, like many other things we feel or know instinctually, our systems are detecting things far beyond our conscious gaze." This insight implies that the feeling of liking something or someone is not always a rational or conscious decision; rather, it can be driven by deeper psychological mechanisms that respond to stimuli in ways we may not fully understand.

The **instinctual and emotional nature** of liking aligns with its role as an expressive speech act, where the speaker communicates enjoyment, approval, or desire. When someone expresses that they "like" something, they are not merely describing a passive observation but are conveying a positive emotional response that influences their actions and decisions.

Expressive Speech Acts: The Role of "Like"

Within the framework of **expressive speech acts**, liking is a form of communication that reveals the speaker's emotional state. It involves asserting that something is **enjoyable**, **agreeable**, or **desirable**. In the context of this analysis, "like" represents an internal, subjective reaction to external stimuli, and the speaker's utterance reflects a personal evaluation of that experience.

The expression of liking, in this sense, is an important social tool. It allows individuals to share their preferences, form connections with others based on common interests, and express approval or validation. For instance, when someone says, "I like this," they are not only indicating their personal enjoyment but are also inviting others to acknowledge or possibly share in that enjoyment.

Desire and Tendency

The feeling of "liking" something often leads to a **desire** to engage with it further. Liking something goes beyond mere approval; it can spark a deeper inclination or tendency toward a particular action. This is where "like" transcends being just an emotional response—it becomes a **motivator** for behavior. People tend to seek out experiences or objects they enjoy, creating a positive feedback loop where their emotional response reinforces their behavior.

For example, when someone feels an attraction to a particular activity or person, they are more likely to pursue it or engage with it more frequently. The **emotional satisfaction** derived from liking something drives further interaction, shaping preferences and habits over time. This aligns with the idea that liking something not only signifies enjoyment but also implies a **desire to do or have** that thing, as mentioned in the analysis.

The act of liking, as an expressive speech act, represents a **fundamental human experience**—the enjoyment or approval of something or someone. Rooted in both **instinctual** and **conscious** processes, liking reflects a person's emotional state and often leads to a desire for further engagement. Whether it is a fleeting preference or a more

deeply ingrained inclination, the feeling of liking shapes how individuals interact with the world around them. Through the lens of speech acts, "like" is not only a statement of approval but also an expression of **emotional connection** and **motivation**, influencing both personal choices and social interactions.

"I love it. And the music is gorgeous. I keep humming it when I get home." "Only you," Blaise said, smiling. Salima loved to sing and could sing almost anything.		
S-setting and Scene	Setting	New York - Franch A Perfect Life - Chapter 2. 2014
P-Participant	Speaker Listener	Salima - Blaise
E-Ends	Purpose	Blaise is very fond of music and singing
A-Act	Content	Salima told Blaise that she loves music and singing very much
K-Key		She spoke enthusiastically
I-Instrument		Oral speaking
N-Norm	Interaction	Salima spoke to Blaise
G-Genre		Verbal communication

The meaning:

Love (v) means an interesting feeling of deed affection (Webster’s dictionary).

The influence:

Music plays a powerful role in shaping emotional experiences, and for Salima, it becomes a source of joy and emotional release. The ability of music to evoke positive emotions and enhance mood is well-documented in psychological studies, and in Salima’s case, it not only brings her happiness but also serves as a medium through which she can express herself.

Emotional Influence of Music

Music has a profound effect on human emotions, often eliciting feelings of **joy**, **relaxation**, and **happiness**. For Salima, music acts as a catalyst for positive emotional experiences, allowing her to find **joy in her day** through singing. Research suggests that music activates the brain's **reward system**, releasing dopamine—a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and satisfaction (Zatorre & Salimpoor, 2013). This neurological process may explain why Salima feels a sense of joy and contentment when she engages in music and singing.

The simple act of listening to or performing music can **transform emotional states**, making even the most ordinary moments feel more enjoyable. For Salima, this emotional shift is clear: music allows her to **laugh and be happy**, channeling any negative energy into a creative outlet.

Music as a Form of Self-Expression

Beyond its ability to evoke joy, music serves as a powerful medium for **self-expression**. Salima’s talent for singing enables her to communicate her emotions and personality in a way that words alone may not capture. Singing allows her to express her inner feelings and thoughts, aligning her emotional state with her creative output. This

aligns with research suggesting that music and singing provide individuals with a way to express their **authentic selves**, fostering emotional well-being (Gabrielsson, 2011). Through music, Salima can tap into her own **emotional reservoir**, transforming her inner experiences into outward expressions of joy and happiness. Singing becomes not just an enjoyable activity, but a **therapeutic practice** that helps her manage emotions, process feelings, and connect with her own sense of identity.

The Joy of Music and Social Connection

Another significant aspect of music is its ability to **connect people** on an emotional level. While the analysis focuses on Salima's personal experience, music often acts as a social bridge, allowing individuals to share emotions with others. In many cases, singing can create communal bonds, fostering a sense of unity and shared emotional experience. This is important in understanding how Salima might not only be experiencing individual joy but also **strengthening social connections** through her engagement with music.

The influence of music on Salima's emotional well-being is evident in the way it brings her **joy and laughter**. Through singing, she channels her talent and expresses her emotions, transforming her day into something more **positive** and **meaningful**. Music, for Salima, is more than just a pastime—it is a vital source of **happiness, self-expression, and emotional fulfillment**. The emotional and psychological benefits of music are clear in her ability to laugh and be happy, demonstrating music's role as a **powerful force** in her life.

Dislikes

Dislike represents a broad negative affective state that influences people's preferences and behaviors. It encompasses a range of negative feelings towards individuals, groups, or objects, and while it reflects a lack of favor or approval, it does not necessarily imply a desire to cause harm. Dislike can arise from various sources, such as envy, perceived unfairness, or a belief that others are inferior. It often guides people's decisions and interactions, shaping their social dynamics and preferences.

The Nature of Dislike

Dislike involves a complex interplay of emotions and cognitive processes. When individuals experience dislike, it may be fueled by feelings of envy or resentment towards others who possess qualities, resources, or attributes that one lacks. This emotion can stem from perceived inequalities or unfairness, where individuals may view others as having an advantage or privilege that they themselves do not. Such feelings can manifest as **contempt**, where individuals regard others as inferior or unworthy.

According to Ubaidillah (2021), "Hate speech is not only about shared knowledge but also desires and hatred. The purpose of hate speeches is to give the addressee the knowledge unknown before and make them want something never thought of and feel something." This perspective highlights the power of negative emotions, such as dislike and hatred, to shape perceptions and actions. Hate speech often aims to incite negative feelings and desires, further amplifying the impact of dislike.

Psychological Perspectives on Dislike

Unnes (2016) provides insight into the psychological dimensions of dislike, noting that "the psychological conceptualization of hate and dislike was simply a matter of degree of negativity (i.e., hate falls on the end of the continuum of dislike) or also morality (i.e., hate is imbued with distinct moral components that distinguish it from dislike)." Dislike and hate exist on a continuum of negative emotions, with hate representing a more intense and morally charged form of dislike. Research by Petrus (2022) supports this view, showing that "hated attitude objects were more negative than disliked attitude objects and associated with moral beliefs and emotions."

This continuum suggests that while dislike reflects a general negative affect, hate involves a more profound level of negativity and is often associated with moral judgments. The distinction between dislike and hate is not merely about intensity but also about the underlying moral and emotional dimensions.

Dislike and Its Emotional Impact

Dislike can manifest in various ways, from subtle aversions to overt hostility. It often involves a sense of rejection or aversion, where individuals consciously or unconsciously distance themselves from the disliked entity. This negative feeling can influence social interactions, decision-making, and overall well-being. While dislike does not inherently involve a desire to harm, it can create barriers and contribute to social conflicts.

Dislike is akin to an **allergy** or aversion, where individuals experience a persistent and often irrational negative reaction towards certain people, objects, or situations. This aversion can lead to avoidance behaviors and impact social dynamics. It can also be characterized by a **rejection** of certain attributes or qualities that individuals find undesirable or threatening.

Dislike is a multifaceted negative affective state that influences people's preferences and behaviors. It arises from a combination of emotional and cognitive factors, including envy, perceived unfairness, and contempt. While dislike is less intense than hate, it can still have significant psychological and social impacts. Understanding the nature of dislike and its implications helps illuminate the complexities of human emotions and interactions, highlighting how negative feelings can shape perceptions and behaviors.

"She was very upset about the shooting at UCLA." "Who isn't?" Blaise knew that her daughter shared her own concerns about violence on campuses and gun control (Blaise – Salima, New YorkCh. 1 – 2014)		
S-setting andScene	Setting	New York A Perfect Life - Chapter 6. 2014
P-Participant	SpeakerListener	Blaise Simon
E-Ends	Purpose	Blaise is still afraid of her previous married life
A-Act	Content	Blaise's disappointment with her life
K-Key		She spoke sadly
I-Instrument		Oral speaking
N-Norm	Interaction	Blaise spoke to Simon
G-Genre		Verbal communication

The meaning:

Upset (v) means make (someone) unhappy, disappointed, or worried: Webster's dictionary, concerns about (v) means to relate to: be about (Webster's dictionary)

The influence:

Dislike in the context of personal loss and betrayal can significantly affect individuals' emotions and actions. In this case, Blaise's intense negative emotion is demonstrated through her response to a deeply distressing situation. Blaise's strong feelings of dislike and anger are directed towards the individual responsible for the tragic incident involving her husband. This situation illustrates how dislike can evolve into more complex and intense emotions, such as hatred and resentment, especially when connected to personal trauma.

Blaise's Reaction to Personal Loss

In the narrative, Blaise's reaction to her husband's death is characterized by profound **dislike** towards the circumstances and the person responsible for the shooting. Her strong emotions are rooted in the sense of betrayal and injustice she feels due to the actions of someone she perceives as irresponsible. This form of dislike transcends mere aversion and enters the realm of deep-seated anger and resentment.

Blaise's inability to take direct action, such as firing the individual herself, compounds her feelings of helplessness and frustration. This lack of agency enhances her emotional response, as she is forced to grapple with her grief and anger without the opportunity for direct retribution. The situation emphasizes how **dislike** can be intertwined with other intense emotions, including **guilt** and **sadness**, especially in the aftermath of a tragic event.

Emotional and Psychological Impact

Dislike in this context is not just a simple negative feeling but a complex emotional response that affects Blaise's psychological state. The sense of **betrayal** and **injustice** she experiences heightens her negative emotions, leading to a broader sense of disillusionment. The emotional turmoil stemming from her husband's death and the subsequent shooting incident profoundly influences her behavior and outlook.

Dislike and Its Psychological Roots

Blaise's feelings of dislike are deeply rooted in her personal experience and emotional response to the tragedy. As noted in psychological research, intense emotions such as hate and dislike can arise from perceived injustices and personal losses. This situation reflects how **dislike** can evolve from a negative affective state into more complex emotional reactions, shaped by individual experiences and psychological factors.

Blaise's reaction to her husband's death highlights the multifaceted nature of **dislike** and its intersection with other intense emotions. Her strong feelings of aversion and resentment towards the responsible individual underscore the depth of her emotional pain and the complexity of her psychological response. Understanding these emotions provides insight into how personal loss and perceived betrayal can shape individuals' feelings and behaviors, revealing the intricate ways in which dislike manifests in response to traumatic experiences.

“You’re sleeping with her, aren’t you? She’s much too old for you.” “In the first place, she’s not old. And in the second, I’m not sleeping with her. She’s an extremely famous woman, and an icon all over the world. The last thing she’d want is a little schoolteacher like me.”.		
S-Setting and Scene	Setting	New York A Perfect Life - Chapter 8. 2014
P-Participant	Speaker Listener	Simon Liz
E-Ends	Purpose	Simon hopes his mother understands the state of his relationship with Blaise
A-Act	Content	Simon explains his relationship status to Blaise to his mother Liz
K-Key		She spoke softly
I-Instrument		Oral speaking
N-Norm	Interaction	Simon spoke to Liz
G-Genre		Verbal communication

The meaning:

Not sleeping with (v) means not to have sex with (someone) (Webster’s dictionary)

The influence:

Dislike often manifests not only as an aversion to a person or situation but also as a response to uncomfortable emotional dynamics within relationships. In this instance, Simon’s feelings of discomfort and the need to clarify his relationship with Blaise to his mother, Liz, reveal the intricate interplay between **dislike** and interpersonal tensions.

Simon’s Discomfort and Need for Clarification

Simon’s discomfort arises from his mother Liz’s **fear** and **dislike** of his professional relationship with Blaise. Liz’s fear likely stems from misunderstandings or preconceived notions about the nature of Simon’s interactions with Blaise. Her emotional response generates tension and discomfort for Simon, who feels compelled to address and alleviate her concerns. This situation highlights how **dislike** and fear can create emotional strain in relationships, leading individuals to engage in defensive or clarifying behavior.

Impact on Simon’s Emotional State

Simon’s response to his mother’s fear and **dislike** reveals his own discomfort and frustration. The need to assert that his relationship with Blaise is purely professional indicates his desire to distance himself from any negative implications that Liz’s fears might suggest. This situation underscores the psychological impact of **dislike**, not only on the person who holds the negative feelings but also on those who are affected by them.

Psychological Dimensions of Dislike

In psychological terms, **dislike** can manifest through interpersonal dynamics, influencing how individuals communicate and interact with one another. Liz’s fear and subsequent **dislike** of Simon’s professional relationship with Blaise create a context

where Simon feels the need to defend himself. This defensive behavior reflects how **dislike** can lead to complex emotional responses, such as **anxiety** and **frustration**, particularly when it affects significant personal relationships.

Interpersonal Dynamics and Dislike

The dynamics between Simon and his mother highlight how **dislike** can complicate interpersonal relationships. Liz's fear and dislike create a scenario where Simon feels obligated to clarify and reassure, which adds an extra layer of emotional tension. This scenario exemplifies how **dislike** can influence not just individual feelings but also the overall interaction between people, affecting communication and emotional well-being.

Simon's need to explain his professional relationship with Blaise in response to his mother's fear and **dislike** underscores the multifaceted nature of negative emotions in interpersonal contexts. The situation reveals how **dislike** can create discomfort and lead to defensive actions, illustrating the broader impact of such emotions on personal relationships and communication. Understanding these dynamics offers insight into how **dislike** can shape interactions and influence emotional experiences within familial and professional relationships.

Joy

Joy is a profound emotional experience that transcends mere happiness, characterized by an intense and transformative sense of elation and contentment. This extraordinary feeling of joy can significantly influence one's life, guiding choices and shaping personal experiences. Joy is often seen as a boundless reservoir of positive emotion that, once tapped into, can deeply impact an individual's well-being and decision-making processes.

Joy as a Transformative Experience

True joy is not just a fleeting moment of happiness; it represents a deep and lasting state of emotional fulfillment. It requires a form of complete surrender, akin to the feelings of love, where one fully immerses oneself in the experience. This immersive quality of joy can be compared to the emotional depth one feels when making choices that align closely with their desires and values. Joy often arises from the realization of significant achievements, personal milestones, or moments of profound satisfaction, highlighting its transformative potential in shaping one's outlook on life.

The Biological Basis of Joy

From a physiological perspective, the experience of joy is linked to the release of neurotransmitters such as dopamine and serotonin in the brain. These chemicals are associated with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction, playing a crucial role in the emotional response to positive stimuli. For example, the act of screaming with happiness or expressing joy through laughter can be attributed to the heightened activity of these neurotransmitters, which contribute to the sensation of extreme pleasure and contentment.

Joy and Its Psychological Impact

The emotion of joy extends beyond immediate pleasure to have a profound effect on psychological well-being. It is often triggered by exceptionally good or satisfying experiences, such as witnessing success or achieving personal goals. This form of joy is not merely about experiencing happiness but also about the deep sense of pleasure and fulfillment that accompanies significant life events or personal victories.

Joy in Decision-Making and Life Choices

The influence of joy on decision-making is substantial. When individuals experience profound joy, they are more likely to make choices that reflect their values and passions. This state of joy can act as a guiding force, leading individuals to pursue goals and opportunities that align with their personal sense of fulfillment. The decision-making process influenced by joy often results in greater satisfaction and a more authentic alignment with one's true desires.

Joy is a multifaceted emotion that encompasses a deep sense of happiness and satisfaction, influenced by both biological and psychological factors. It represents a transformative reservoir of positive emotion that can shape life experiences and decision-making processes. Understanding the nature of joy, including its physiological basis and psychological impact, provides insight into how this powerful emotion contributes to overall well-being and personal fulfillment.

"I love knowing about what you do," he said, smiling at her. But he knew the flip side of the coin now too, all the rigors that went with it.

S-Setting and Scene	Setting	New York A Perfect Life - Chapter 8. 2014
P-Participant	Speaker Listener	Simon - Blaise
E-Ends	Purpose	Simon knew what Blaise to do in her job
A-Act	Content	Simon listened to Blaise's experience
K-Key		He spoke gently
I-Instrument		Oral speaking
N-Norm	Interaction	Simon spoke to Blaise
G-Genre		Verbal communication

The meaning:

Love (v) means affection based on admiration, benevolence or common interest: (Webster's dictionary). Simon listened carefully when Blaise told him about her job

The influence:

Blaise's enthusiastic declaration about his work being his passion reflects a profound sense of joy and fulfillment. When Blaise communicates with such fervor, it reveals his deep emotional connection to his activities, illustrating how joy can be an intrinsic motivator. This expression of joy is more than just a personal feeling; it manifests through his enthusiastic communication, which resonates strongly with those around him. Joy, in this context, is not only a personal experience but also a powerful communicative force that can influence others.

Impact on Simon

Simon's admiration for Blaise is significantly influenced by Blaise's visible joy and enthusiasm. The joy that Blaise expresses through his passionate declaration creates a compelling and engaging atmosphere. This emotional authenticity not only highlights Blaise's satisfaction and happiness but also amplifies Simon's admiration. Simon's enhanced respect and admiration for Blaise stem from the emotional impact of Blaise's joyful expression. It underscores how joy, when expressed genuinely, can foster a deeper appreciation and admiration from others.

Psychological and Emotional Dynamics

The joy exhibited by Blaise has a notable psychological impact on Simon. The positive emotions that Blaise conveys through his passionate expression can evoke similar feelings in Simon, reinforcing his admiration. This interaction demonstrates how the joy of one individual can influence the emotional state and perceptions of others. Blaise's joy, characterized by enthusiasm and satisfaction, creates a ripple effect that enhances Simon's admiration and respect for him. This illustrates the interconnectedness of emotional experiences and their capacity to affect interpersonal relationships.

Blaise's enthusiastic communication of his passion reflects a deep sense of joy, which significantly influences Simon's perception of him. The genuine expression of Blaise's joy not only reveals his personal fulfillment but also enhances Simon's admiration. This dynamic highlights the power of joy as an emotional and communicative force, demonstrating how positive emotions can profoundly impact relationships and influence others' perceptions. Through Blaise's authentic joy, Simon's respect and admiration are amplified, illustrating the influential role of emotional expression in shaping interpersonal interactions.

Sorrow

Sorrow is a profound emotional state characterized by deep distress, often arising from loss, disappointment, or misfortune. This intense feeling encompasses a range of negative emotions, including sadness, regret, and deep grief. Unlike general sadness, sorrow reflects a more significant emotional depth and impact, particularly following the loss of something or someone cherished. It is a state that influences the behavior of the person experiencing it, often leading to changes in mood and actions due to the overwhelming nature of the emotion.

Expressions of Sorrow

Condolence, as defined by Moghaddam (2012:5), involves expressing sympathy and providing support to those who have suffered a loss. It is an acknowledgment of grief and an empathetic gesture towards those in mourning. Condolence serves to offer comfort and solidarity during times of sorrow, reinforcing the communal aspect of grieving.

Lamentation, as explained by Austin (1975), represents a passionate expression of grief or sorrow, often manifested through music, poetry, or song. It is a profound form of mourning that can involve vocal expressions of regret and sadness, such as weeping or wailing. Lamentation embodies the intense emotional response to loss, serving as a means for individuals to externalize and process their sorrow.

Psychological Impact of Sorrow

Sorrow, as an intense emotional experience, can lead to significant psychological effects. It often results in profound feelings of emptiness, sadness, and hopelessness. This depth of emotion can overshadow one's ability to maintain self-control and can lead to behaviors driven by intense grief, including revenge or extreme withdrawal. According to R. Pies (2008) in *A Brief Spiritual History of Sorrow and Depression*, the prolonged experience of sorrow can be nearly unbearable, with the individual struggling to accept or escape from deep-seated sadness. This emotional state can consume an individual, leading to a persistent sense of despair and emotional numbness.

Sorrow is a powerful and profound emotional state that reflects deep distress and grief, often following significant loss or misfortune. It encompasses a wide range of negative emotions and influences the behavior of those experiencing it. Through expressions such as condolence and lamentation, individuals navigate and communicate their sorrow, seeking comfort and understanding. The psychological impact of sorrow can be profound, leading to intense feelings of sadness and hopelessness that affect one's overall well-being. Understanding and acknowledging the depth of sorrow can help in addressing its emotional and behavioral consequences, providing support and empathy to those in need.

“They said she had meningitis. I called the hospital, and they wouldn’t let me talk to her. They said she was sleeping. I never got to say goodbye to her, Mom.” Her voice was raw, and a chill ran down Blaise’s spine.		
S-Setting and Scene	Setting	New York A Perfect Life - Chapter 4. 2014
P-Participant	Speaker Listener	Blaise - Salima
E-Ends	Purpose	Salima was very sad and wanted to complain about all her sadness to her mother Blaise
A-Act	Content	Slima explained to Blaise's mother about what happened to Abby
K-Key		She spoke sadly
I-Instrument		Oral speaking
N-Norm	Interaction	Salima spoke to Blaise
G-Genre		Verbal communication

The meaning:

Said (v) means to express in words, to state as opinion or belief: Webster’s dictionary, Talk (v) means to convey information or communicate in any ways: Webster’s dictionary, Salima said fearfully about Abby's illness.

The influence:

Sorrow is a deep and profound emotional response to significant distress, often characterized by sadness, fear, and anxiety. In the context of Salima's reaction to Abby's illness, sorrow manifests through intense emotional responses to the perceived danger

and potential outcomes of the situation. Salima's feelings of sadness and fear highlight the profound impact that distressing events can have on an individual's emotional state.

Emotional Impact on Salima

Salima's reaction to Abby's illness exemplifies the powerful effect of sorrow on an individual's psyche. The imminent danger and uncertainty surrounding Abby's health evoke a strong sense of sadness and apprehension in Salima. Her emotional response reflects the deep concern and anxiety that often accompany situations involving loved ones facing serious challenges. The fear of potential loss and the sadness of witnessing a loved one in distress contribute to Salima's profound sense of sorrow.

Psychological Response to Sorrow

The intense sorrow experienced by Salima as a result of Abby's illness underscores the psychological impact of such distressing circumstances. The combination of sadness and fear can lead to heightened emotional distress, affecting one's overall mental well-being. Salima's reaction illustrates how sorrow can influence emotional states, leading to feelings of helplessness and deep concern for the well-being of a loved one.

Salima's profound sorrow in response to Abby's illness highlights the deep emotional impact that such distressing situations can have. Her feelings of sadness and fear reflect the intense emotional response to the danger facing Abby. Understanding the nature of sorrow in this context provides insight into the emotional challenges faced by individuals dealing with significant distress, emphasizing the need for empathy and support during such difficult times.

Apology

Apologizing is a behavioral act grounded in self-awareness and social norms. Individuals express apologies in various ways, influenced by cultural norms, situational contexts, and personal styles. According to L.B. Sirwan (2017), apologies are crucial for maintaining verbal politeness; failing to apologize after committing an offense can be perceived as impolite.

Apologies in Pragmatic Study

In the field of pragmatics, apologies are categorized within speech act theory. Searle (1969) classifies apologies as expressive speech acts because they convey the speaker's emotional state. Specifically, an apology communicates the speaker's sorrow and regret for having caused offense to the listener or reader.

Historical Context and Definition

The use of the verb "sorry" to express regret or seek forgiveness dates back to the late 16th century, with early instances found in the writings of Thomas Nash. An apology involves expressing regret for a past action or statement and can also be seen as a request for forgiveness. It serves to acknowledge mistakes or inappropriate behavior, whether it is for a simple error or a lapse in temper.

Goffman's Perspective

Goffman (1967) describes apologizing as a form of remedial work aimed at rectifying a situation. The process of apologizing entails several key aspects:

acknowledging that the action was wrong, committing to avoid repeating the behavior in the future, and offering some form of repair or compensation for the harm caused. In summary, apologizing is an essential aspect of social interaction, reflecting cultural norms and personal accountability. It serves not only to express regret but also to repair relationships and restore social harmony.

"I'm sorry, Simon," Eric said sincerely. "I know she babied her, and they had a very closerelationship, so it's hard to make changes. And it's very soon.		
S-setting andScene	Setting	New York A Perfect Life - Chapter 5. 2014
P-Participant	Speaker Listener	Eric - Simon
E-Ends	Purpose	Eric tells Simon that Blaise treats Salima like a baby
A-Act	Content	Eric gave Simon an understanding of Salima's parenting style
K-Key		Eric spoke softly
I-Instrument		Oral speaking
N-Norm	Interaction	Eric spoke to Simon
G-Genre		Verbal communication

The meaning:

Say sorry (v) means: feeling sorrow or sympathy (Webster's dictionary)
 Know (v) means to perceive directly; have direct cognition of (Webster's dictionary).
 Eric gave Simon an understanding about Salima

The influence:

Simon was significantly motivated to address and rectify the ineffective parenting patterns that Blaise and Abby imposed on Salima. His concern was driven by the realization that Salima was being treated in a manner that stunted her growth and independence, akin to how one might treat a child rather than a mature individual. Simon's intervention was aimed at altering these misguided approaches to ensure that Salima received the appropriate support and guidance needed for her development.

4.2 Finding

The analysis of the speech acts produced by the main characters has yielded clear and comprehensible results. This section details the data related to commissive speech acts, which encompass expressions of pleasure, joy, pain, like, dislike, sorrow, and apology. Commissive speech acts are characterized by the speaker's commitment to a future action or directive. Specifically, these findings illustrate how the speaker issues commands or requests, guiding the listener to fulfill specific actions or responses.

Percentage of Acts of Expressive in the novel 'A Perfect Life' By Danielle Steel

Types of Speech Act	
Expressive : Searle/Yule Theory	Total Number
Pleasure	1 (0.55 %)
Pain	12 (6.63 %)
likes	29 (16.02 %)
Dislike	92 (50,83%)
Joy	7 (3.86 %)
Sorrow	18 (9.94%)
Apologize	22 (12.15%)

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the data, several key conclusions can be drawn. This study primarily focused on examining speech acts, with a specific emphasis on expressive communication functions as portrayed by the main characters in Danielle Steel's *A Perfect Life*. The research analyzed various categories of expressive speech acts, revealing distinct patterns in how emotions and sentiments are conveyed throughout the novel. The findings include the following frequency of occurrences: *Sorrow* was expressed in 18 instances, *Apology* in 22 instances, *Like* in 29 instances, and *Dislike* in 92 instances. Interestingly, the study found a lower frequency of speech acts related to positive emotions, such as *pain*, *joy*, and *pleasure*, compared to the more negative expressions. Among all the expressive speech acts analyzed, *Dislike* emerged as the most dominant, appearing far more frequently than any other category. This overwhelming prevalence of *Dislike* highlights a significant thematic trend in the novel, emphasizing the pervasive presence of negative sentiment and dissatisfaction in the characters' emotional experiences. Such a finding suggests that the narrative is largely framed within a context of discontent and emotional conflict, further reinforcing the novel's overarching exploration of complex human emotions.

References

- Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to do things with words*. Oxford University Press.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.
- Goffman, E. (1967). *On face-work: An analysis of ritual elements in social interaction*. University of Chicago Press.
- Husain, A., Nurhayani, I., & Hamamah, H. (2020). *Commissive speech acts in Indonesian presidential debates*. Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya.
- Ilie, C., & Norrick, N. R. (2018). Introduction: Pragmatics and its interfaces. *John Benjamins Publishing Company*. <https://www.researchgate.net>
- Leech, G. N. (1983). *Principles of pragmatics*. Longman.
- Levinson, S. C. (1983). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge University Press.
- Moccia, L., & Mazza, M. (2018). The experience of pleasure: A perspective between neuroscience and psychoanalysis. *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://www.frontiersin.org>
- Moghaddam, F. M. (2012). *The omnicultural imperative*. Sagepub.com
- Petrus, C. (2022). Identification of expressive speech acts. *Journal of Allure*. <http://journal.upgris.ac.id/index.php/allure/search/titles>
- Pies, R. (2008). *A brief spiritual history of sorrow and depression*. [Book].
- Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech acts: An essay in the philosophy of language*. Cambridge University Press.
- Selsibila, S. (2015). Expressive speech acts in the drowning of Va Der Wick movie. *Pajar: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan dan Pengajaran*. <https://pajar.ejournal.unri.ac.id/index.php/PJR/article/view/8549>
- Simpson, P. (1993). *Language, ideology and point of view*. Routledge.
- Steel, D. (2014). *A perfect life*. Delacorte Press.
- Wahyuningtyas, D. (2021). Main character's expressive speech acts found in Tom Hooper's *The King's Speech*. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication>
- Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford University Press.
- Yule, G. (2010). *The study of language*. Cambridge University Press.